WILDLIFE WORLDWIDE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE CONSERVE

WWW.MARKCARWARDINE.COM

Sea of Cortez Safari

An Exclusive Baja California Adventure

with Mark and Rachel

9-19 January & 17-27 January 2028



A glorious adventure in Baja California, Mexico, exploring the whale- and dolphin-rich waters of the Sea of Cortez. We'll be aboard a comfortable boat with en-suite facilities, carrying a maximum of ***just nine guests****, with the added advantage of a* ***spotter plane*** *to help ensure some fabulous encounters.*

About our trip

Baja California is one of the finest places in the world for whale and dolphin watching, and we're thrilled to be going back! Mark, a world-renowned cetacean expert, is the perfect guide to lead us there, having visited more than 90 times (and Rachel more than 50). In the island-studded Sea of Cortez, we hope to encounter humpback, blue, fin, Bryde's and sperm whales, as well as bottlenose dolphins, super-pods of common dolphins, killer whales, short-finned pilot whales and pygmy beaked whales. We could also see Guadalupe fur seals, countless seabirds and a host of other wildlife.

We'll stretch our legs with walks and snorkelling at remote islands, taking in the spectacular scenery, while keeping our eyes open for those unforgettable, unexpected wildlife encounters that make the Sea of Cortez so special.

The best bit, though, is that we'll have our own **spotter plane**, allowing us to cover more ground, maximise our time in this fabulously remote corner of Mexico and greatly increase our chances of finding wildlife. It's a fantastic way to experience one of the world's great wildlife destinations.



Wildlife photos © Mark Carwardine





Highlights

- Travel aboard the superb *Gallant Lady*, an intimate expedition yacht accommodating just nine guests. With exceptional comfort, outstanding service and a wonderfully small group, she gives us unrivalled access to some of Baja California's finest wildlife destinations.
- Set off from the southernmost tip of Baja California, with our first stop less than an hour away: the enigmatic humpback whales at their breeding grounds. Here, we hope to witness spectacular displays of breaching, tail-slapping and powerful pectoral-fin waving. December to April is the prime season for humpbacks, so we'll be there at the perfect time. We'll also lower a hydrophone into the water, allowing us to listen to a live underwater concert as male humpbacks sing their long, hauntingly beautiful songs.
- Enter the Sea of Cortez and cruise its subtropical waters in search of an extraordinary variety of whales, dolphins and other marine life. With the aid of our spotter plane, we hope to find blue, fin, humpback, sperm, Bryde's, short-finned pilot and pygmy beaked whales, bottlenose dolphins and huge super-pods of common dolphins. Other possible encounters include Guadalupe fur seals, hammerhead sharks, Munk's mobula rays, striped marlin, sea turtles, blue-footed boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, brown pelicans and much, much more.
- Snorkel, hopefully, with California sea lions at one of their rookeries – an exhilarating experience with these wonderfully playful animals.
- Visit remote islands, where we can stretch our legs and explore the spectacular scenery.
- Enjoy fascinating lectures and photography workshops with Mark, plus a slideshow of our adventures made by Rachel.

Itinerary

9 JAN/17 JAN: Fly from the UK to Los Cabos via Mexico City (if part of flight package).

10 JAN/18 JAN: Arrive in the morning and transfer to a comfortable hotel in San José del Cabo. Welcome evening meal with Mark and Rachel.

11 JAN/19 JAN: Board the *Gallant Lady* in the morning and set sail for Gorda Banks to find humpback whales. We then spend the next 7 nights exploring the Sea of Cortez, adapting our itinerary to sightings.

18 JAN/26 JAN: Disembark in Cabo San Lucas after breakfast, and transfer to Los Cabos airport.

(**19 JAN/27 JAN:** Arrive home.)











Gallant Lady *is a 115-foot/35m elegant yacht designed for comfort and stability. Communal areas include a spacious lounge, sun deck, and dining area,* ***perfect for wildlife and adventure.*** *An intimate yacht,* Gallant Lady *combines elegant style with modern comfort. Cabins are beautifully appointed, offering five superior suites (two on the main deck and three on the lower deck) and one premium lower deck suite. Each cabin has individually controlled air conditioning and an ensuite bathroom. After a day of exploration, guests can relax in the spacious communal areas, perhaps read a book or enjoy a drink on the sun deck while watching a whale fluking in the glorious sunset. Each evening, enjoy gourmet cuisine inspired by fresh, local ingredients.*

Wildlife photos © Mark Carwardine








Price per person (based on sharing cabin & hotel room)

From £9,895 (excluding flights); from £10,995 (including return flights from London via Mexico City)

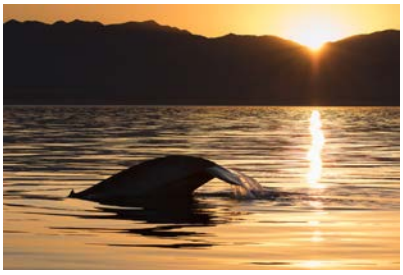
Price includes

Flights via Mexico City (if included in your package); one night in comfortable hotel in San José del Cabo; return transfers from airport (if included in your flight package); seven nights on board the *Gallant Lady;* all meals on board; all non-alcoholic drinks onboard; welcome meal; guide services of Mark Carwardine and Rachel Ashton; lectures and workshops by Mark; film of the trip made by Rachel, as a link; conservation fund contribution.

Price does not include

Flights, hotels and transfer (if not included in your package); travel insurance (compulsory); drinks and meals on land; alcoholic drinks on board the *Gallant Lady*; national park and landing fee USD35 (to be paid locally); items of a personal nature such as laundry and telecommunication charges; passport and visa expenses; excess baggage charges; cancellation; crew and hotel gratuities.







ABTOT The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Ltd
10544 ATOL PROTECTED
WILDLIFE WORLDWIDE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE CONSERVE

This exclusive trip has been put together in partnership with Wildlife Worldwide

To book, please contact Rachel Ashton

T: +44 (0) 7791-058-342 E: rachel@markcarwardine.com

Wildlife photos © Mark Carwardine















This exclusive trip has been put together in partnership with Wildlife Worldwide

To book, please contact Rachel Ashton

T: +44 (0) 7791-058-342 E: rachel@markcarwardine.com

Wildlife photos © Mark Carwardine